

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 29-39 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 31, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 2, 29, 30, 32, and 33, to expedite allowance of the application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment, upon which claims 2, 3, 29, 30, and 32-39 will be pending, with claims 2, 29, and 30 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 31 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 2, 29, and 30 are amended to incorporate the limitations of their base claim, i.e., claim 1, and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the amendments to the claims add no new matter.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 31 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,786,778 to Adams et al. By this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 31.

Objection to Claims 2, 3, 29, 30, and 32-39

The Examiner objected to claims 2, 3, 29, 30, and 32-39 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2, 29, and 30 are herein amended to incorporate the limitations of their base claim, i.e., claim 1, now cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claims 2, 29, and 30, and to claims 3 and 32-39, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 2, 29, or 30.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed, and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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- 6 -

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Respectfully submitted,
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